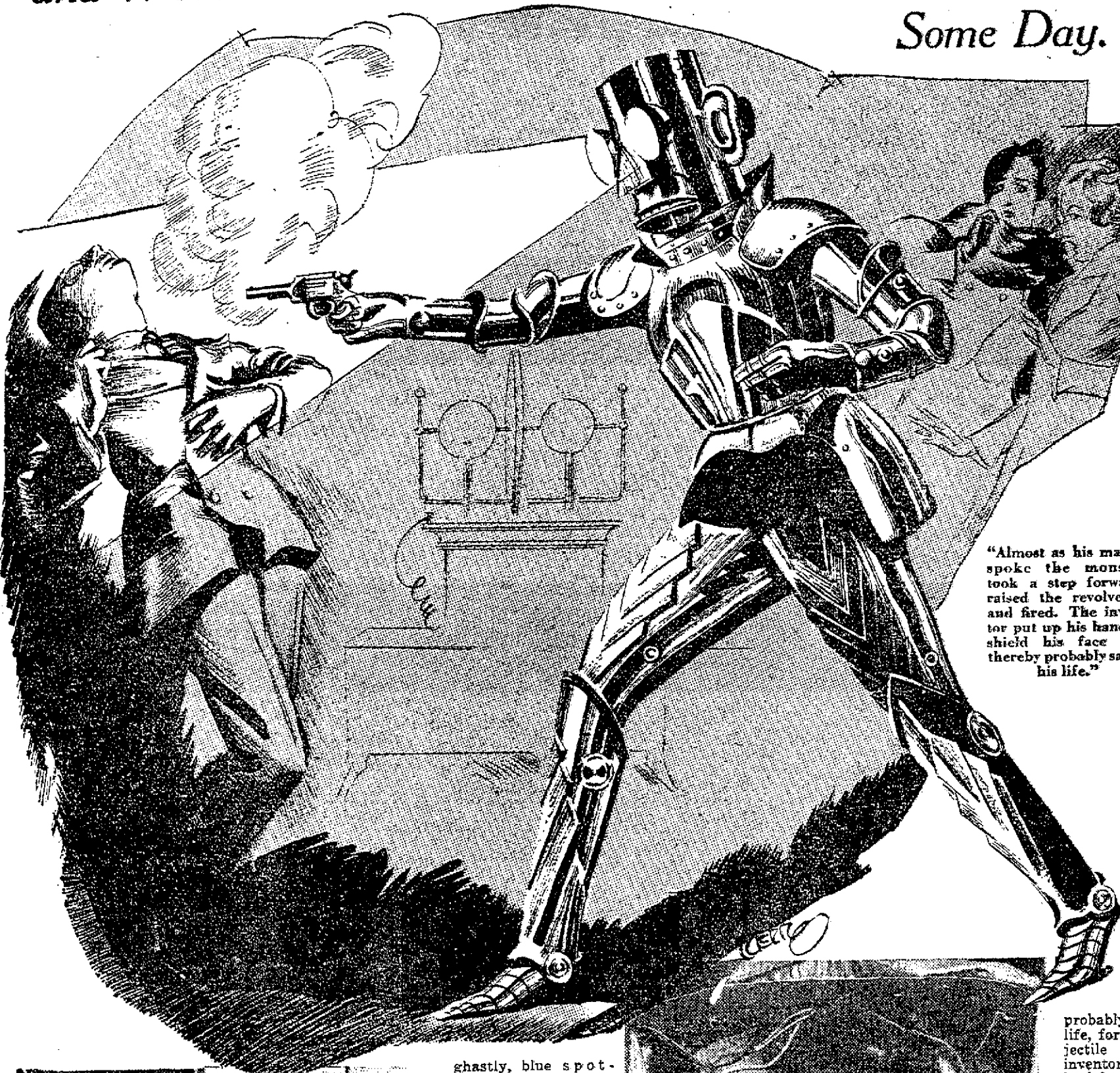


Shot by the "Monster" of His Own Creation

The Two-Ton Robot Suddenly Developed a "Mind" of Its Own and Wounded the Inventor Who Feared It Would "Get Him" Some Day.



"Almost as his master spoke the monster took a step forward, raised the revolver—and fired. The inventor put up his hand to shield his face and thereby probably saved his life."

Harry May, the English Inventor of "Alpha," the Robot Gunman, Lights a Pipe for the Walking, Talking, and Newspaper-Reading Mechanical "Man."

Understand why he fired before I gave the proper signal."

Far from discouraged, Mr. May will continue his interesting work. But it was not announced whether target practice for Alpha would be included henceforth in his regular routine.

Perhaps in future exhibitions, May will advertise the monster's appearance with a sign, reading "No gun play by Alpha. By special request of the audience."

For several years now robots and mechanical men have been one of the most interesting developments of electrical science. H. G. Wells, the noted British author, was one of the first to look into the future and see robots playing a part in human affairs.

In his famous "War of the Worlds" Wells told a story about mechanical men, not unlike Alpha and the world's other robots, who would come to the earth from Mars and fight and devastate whole continents with death rays. If this ever happens, which of course is highly improbable, the nations of this globe may have mechanical robots, like Alpha, to combat them.

Even today there are robots who do all sorts of household tasks. Of course, just at the present time they are a little too expensive for Mr. Average Citizen to purchase and present to his wife for Christmas.

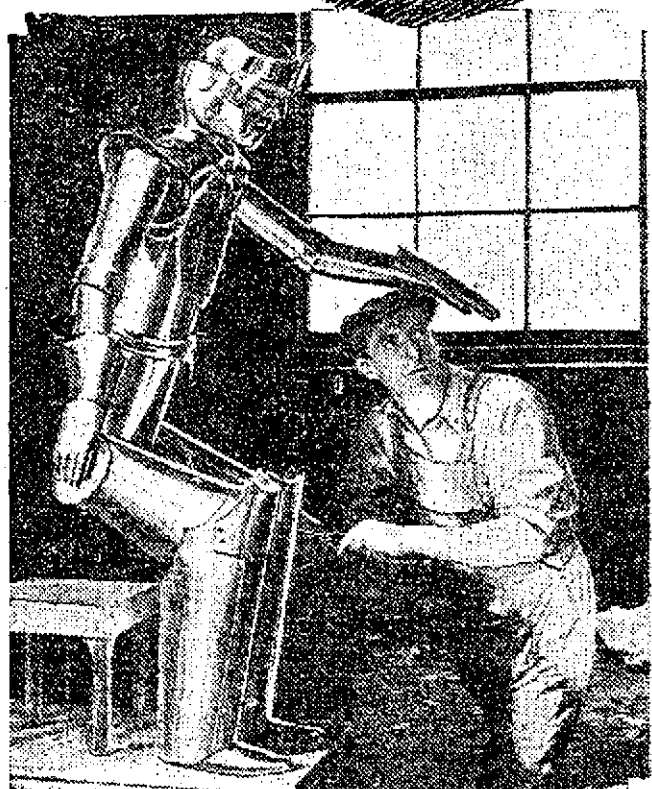
The well-known story of "Frankenstein" demonstrated what might happen if one of these mechanical men got out of control. In the story, the creature put together by Dr. Frankenstein was too strong to overpower. He tortured his maker and many others.

The point was that Frankenstein could duplicate everything in his monster that a human being had except the soul. And that omission led to

disaster. However, if the unexplained conduct of Alpha is any fair test, the mechanical men do develop minds and wills of their own.

Writers have long played with the idea of robots. Edgar Allan Poe—that great master of the weird and evil school of fiction—penned a tale about a chess automaton. And Ambrose Bierce, whose fate today remains as mysterious as any short story he ever wrote, was the author of a terrible tale of a robot poker player who killed his master for cheating.

A sensation on the American stage a few seasons back was the play "R. U. R.," which portrayed what might happen in the world if mechanical men discovered love and became strong enough to exterminate mankind. And a short time later a Broadway theatre was using a mechanical man for a dance director. And he was never late to work!



"The Televisor," Another Robot Recently Revealed to the British Public. Like "Alpha" It Stands, Sits Down and Speaks.

It was going to be a very scientific evening. A large group of dignified British society folk had gathered at Brighton, England, to see Harry May demonstrate the marvelous versatility of Alpha, his enormous, wireless-controlled mechanical man.

Mr. May had so perfected his two-ton robot, it was said, that the mechanical man responded immediately to spoken orders to smoke, read newspapers, walk, tell time, and even answer questions. It was whispered, too, that at the climax of the performance Mr. May would get Alpha to shoot a gun at a target.

Well, the show went on and the machine monster the inventor had created did his stuff with amazing precision and with almost human intelligence. The audience was thrilled but just the least bit frightened. The thing was, even when scientifically explained, a little too uncanny for comfort.

They were convinced that it was by no trickery or hocus-pocus that May operated the steel-encased robot. At the beginning of the performance the inventor had exposed the anatomy of Alpha by removing the steel partition that covered its chest.

The spectators saw a highly intricate arrangement of mechanical and electrical apparatus. They had been further enlightened by May's explanation that various tones of his voice, carried on air waves to the monster, set the hidden machinery in operation, resulting in Alpha doing almost everything a human being could do.

There was an impressive lull. The lights in the hall were extinguished. A

ghastly, blue spotlight, the only illumination in the hall, shone down on the gigantic figure of Alpha and the smaller one of his creator.

"And now, ladies and gentlemen," said May, "I will demonstrate to you what is perhaps the most astounding accomplishment in this mechanical man's repertoire. At a spoken word of command he will pick up a revolver and fire a bullet directly at the target on the rear wall."

Through the mind of every person present crept the memory of Mrs. Shelley's tragic and terrible fiction story of "Frankenstein," the man who created a mechanical monster that destroyed him. Despite the suave ease and complete mastery May had so far exhibited in controlling the monster, many could not but feel that in teaching the brute of steel to shoot off a gun the inventor was tempting

the fates, going a little too far. "It's a blank cartridge in the gun, I hope," exclaimed one nervous onlooker in the crowd.

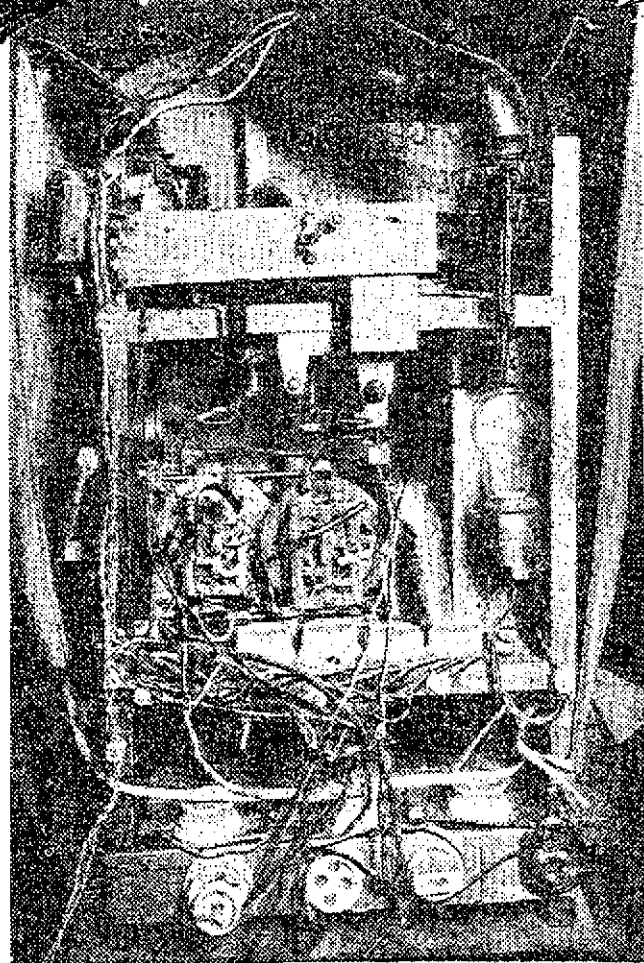
"Oh, no," explained May, "in order to demonstrate the confidence I have in Alpha I have for this one occasion put a real bullet in the revolver. He will shoot it when I direct him to. Alpha's mechanism is so delicately sensitive to my voice that he will not only fire the gun but he will aim it perfectly and will score a bull's eye on the target you see before you."

A murmur went through the crowd. The nervous onlooker and two or three others started for the door. "Please wait a minute, ladies and gentlemen. I assure you there is no danger," pleaded the man on the stage.

Reluctantly the frightened men and women once more took their seats. May walked over and placed a loaded revolver in the robot's "hand."

"Before performing this feat," said the lecturer, "I will try to explain how Alpha accomplishes these marvels, which you have seen and which no other robot has ever been able to master."

"You have heard him talk, answer my questions, read newspapers. This monster, which resembles a man in armor, can do almost anything I ask him. Photo-electric cells are concealed in the gratings that cover his eyes, and his ears are disguised microphones. When you see him obey my commands as you have tonight, he is acting without any other human aid. And now, ladies and gentlemen—" He turned towards "Alpha" but as he did so a startled cry



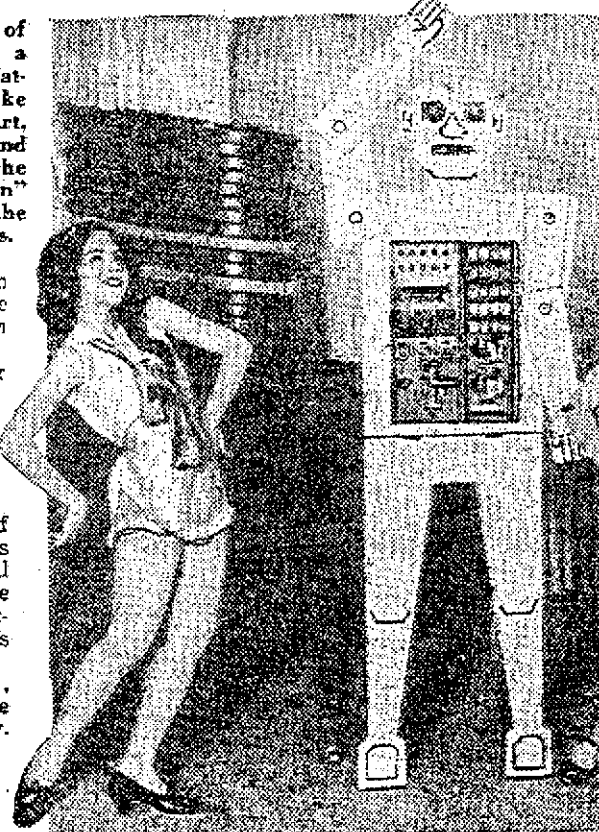
An Interesting View of the "Anatomy" of a Robot. Electrical Batteries and Wires Take the Place of Heart, Lungs and Liver. The Tube on the Right Is the "Brain" Which Controls the Monster's Activities.

left his lips. Women in the audience screamed and men shouted warnings.

Without awaiting May's orders, Alpha had risen from his seat and was pointing the revolver right at his maker! The nightmarish story of Mrs. Shelley was coming true in real life—right before the fashionable English society group's eyes!

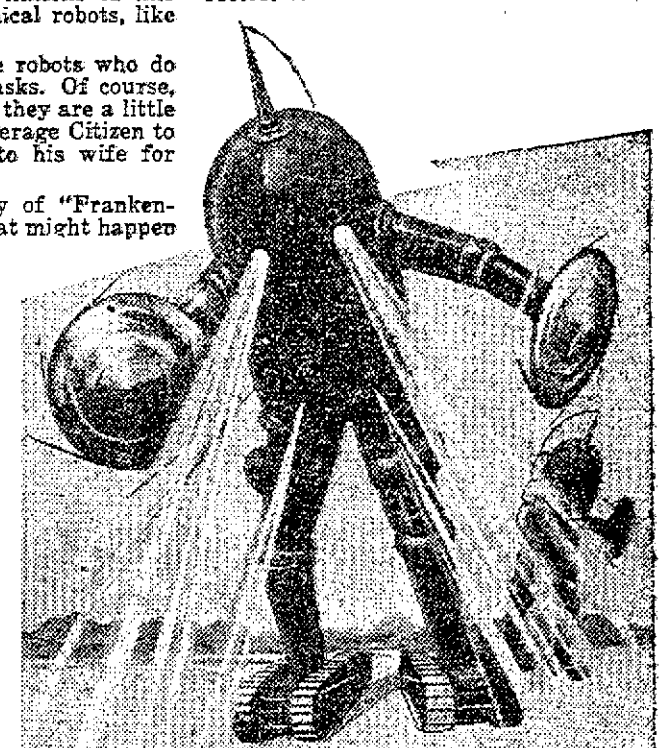
"Stop, Alpha, stop!" ordered the frightened May. "Drop that gun and sit down."

But almost as he spoke the monster took a step forward—and fired. May instinctively put up his hand, and this



This Queer-Looking Mechanical Man Is Giving the Group of Attractive Show Girls Their Dance Cues. The Nevel Stage Director Has No Difficulty at All in Keeping His "Mind" on His Work.

King Features Syndicate, Inc., 1932



Death Ray Warriors from Mars, as Imagined by H. G. Wells, Spreading Destruction All Over the Earth.